

**PATIENT SCHEDULING TECHNIQUES
FOR AN IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE**

Abstract of the Invention

Disclosed is a method and apparatus for scheduling a patient for an appointment with a caregiver, for example, when an implantable device needs to be refilled for drug. The date scheduling of a patient visit to a clinic is automatically arranged and communicated to caregivers and the patient based on a scheduling algorithm. The system includes an implantable drug delivery device having stored therein at least one drug, a drug monitor module monitoring drug usage and drug levels, an external device in telemetric communication with the implantable drug delivery device and having a drug scheduling module for determining whether patient should visit with his/her caregiver. If it is determined that the patient should visit his/her caregiver, the external device will contact various entities involved in the healthcare management of the patient to schedule an appointment. The various entities include, for example, an insurance provider, a pharmacy, a hospital, a caregiver, a physician, and a device manufacturer.